

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/709,957 Confirmation No. 3956  
Applicant : Masuhiro Natsuhara, et al.  
Filed : June 9, 2004  
T.C./A.U. : 1763  
Examiner : Ram N. Kackar  
Docket No. : 039.9016  
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**Accompanying Request for Continued Examination**  
**Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

Sir:

In response to the Office action, made final and mailed on September 7, 2006 in the above-identified patent application, Applicants have elected to file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

As a submission required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(a) and defined in § 1.114(c), the following amendment accompanies the present RCE. (The RCE and this amendment are being filed on March 7, 2007 along with a petition for a three-month extension of time, and are therefore timely filed.)

**AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121**

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.